DEF 12-5 JORDAN

# INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANES FOR JORDAN

REF: EMBAIR 632 JAN 28

1. AFTERNOON LARGE-CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT MAARIV CARRIED TWO STORIES FEB 3:

A. FROM ARAB AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT QUOTING LEBANESE AL HAYAT REPORT THAT U.S. INCLINED TO SELL JORDAN FLIGHT OF 12 F-104 STARFIGHTERS, APPARENTLY TO PREVENT ORDER FROM GOING TO FRANCE, BUT JORDAN HAS ASKED UAC TO DECIDE WHAT PLANES IT SHOULD BUY.



B. FROM MAARIV'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT REPORTING THAT JORDAN'S MILITARY MISSION WILL VISIT WASHINGTON SOON IN BID FOR ADDITION ARMS. JORDAN HAS BEEN ASKING FOR SUCH ARMS CONSIDERABLE TIME USING THREAT OF BEING FORCED TO BUY SOVIET EQUIPMENT INSTEAD. JORDAN PARTICULARLY WANTS F-104S WHICH U.S. HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO GRANT. JORDAN VOTE IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON VIETNAMESE DEBATE THOUGHT SIGNIFICANT IN THIS CONNECTION.

2. MORNING FEB 4 INDEPENDENT HAARETZ CARRIED STORY FROM U.S. CORRESPONDENT THAT:



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A. WASHINGTON OBSERVERS PREDICT JORDAN WILL SOON PRESENT BILL FOR ITS SECURITY COUNCIL SUPPORT OF USG POSITION IN VIETNAM.

B. STATE DEPT CIRCLES YESTERDAY DENIED ANY MEETING WITH JORDANIAN DELEGATION IN CONNECTION JORDAN REQUEST FOR FINANCING PLANE PURCHASE HAVE SO FAR BEEN ARRANGED.

C. ABOVE REACTION CONNECTED WITH REPORT OF BEIRUT CORRESPONDENT FOR LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT HIGH-LEVEL JORDANIAN DELEGATION COMING TO U.S. TO TRY FOR EASY CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF PLANES.

D. UAC PLANS CALL FOR JORDAN TO BUY SUPERSONIC PLANES FROM BRITAIN AND FRANCE BUT THOSE COUNTRIES NOT INCLINED GRANT JORDAN SAME CREDIT TERMS AS LEBANON BECAUSE OF JORDAN'S SHAKY FINANCIAL


CONDITION.

E. CORRESPONDENT ASSERTS THAT LEBANESE PURCHASE OF 12 FRENCH SUPERSONIC FIGHTERS COMPLETES AIRFORCE BUILD-UP OF ARAB STATES TO DEGREE QUALITATIVE EQUALITY WITH ISRAEL, AN OPINION WHICH STATE DEPT SOURCES YESTERDAY TERMED "A JOURNALIST'S PRIVATE EVALUATION."

BARBOUR